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Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable JOHN E. SUNUNU, a Senator from the State of New Hampshire.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

O God, who can test our thoughts and examine our hearts, look within our leaders today and remove anything that will hinder Your Providence. Replace destructive criticism with kindness and humility. Give to our Senators a wisdom that will bring unity and respect. Help them to commit the labors of this day to You, knowing they can trust You to provide help when they need it most.

Be merciful and bless each of us. May Your face shine with favor upon those who love You, as You unleash Your saving power in our world.

Help us to do with our might that which lies to our hands so that we may fight the good fight and at the end receive the crown which You will award to those who have been faithful.

This we ask in Your holy Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable JOHN E. SUNUNU led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. STEVENS).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, April 14, 2005.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable JOHN E. SUNUNU, a Senator from the State of New Hampshire, to perform the duties of the Chair.

TED STEVENS,
President pro tempore.

Mr. SUNUNU thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, once again today, the Senate will be in a period for morning business for 60 minutes. Following that time, the Senate will resume debate on the emergency supplemental appropriations bill. We have several amendments pending from yesterday that are currently under review, and Members may want to speak to those amendments.

Much of the day yesterday we spent—both on the floor and off the floor—discussing the immigration issue. The issues surrounding immigration are critically important to our economy, to equity, and to security and fairness. They are all vital to this country. The leadership has encouraged those who want to participate in a comprehensive debate on immigration to postpone consideration of their amendments from this standpoint because this is an emergency supplemental spending bill to support our troops in Iraq and Afghanistan and to have appropriate funding for tsunami relief.

There will be a time later, before the end of the year, when we will address immigration in a comprehensive way. In spite of that, we have respected the

rights of individual Senators who feel they absolutely must address specific issues, but I continue to encourage those who want to address immigration in a comprehensive way to do so at a more appropriate time.

I know we can work out a process to keep moving forward on the emergency supplemental bill, but we have to address specifically the range of immigration issues that have been brought forth to the managers.

The managers will continue to consider the amendments that are brought forward. Amendments that are brought forward, I encourage they relate to the supplemental emergency spending bill as much as possible. We expect votes over the course of today, and we will have, I expect, a very busy schedule over the course of the day.

Mr. President, I have a few other remarks to make, but I will be happy to turn to the Democratic leader.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I thank the leader. I say through the Chair to the majority leader, we have worked—even started working last week—on the immigration amendments. We have a finite list now. We have 12 amendments. I think that can be whittled down, for lack of a better word, to even less than that, considerably less than that.

What we should do is lock in these amendments as a finite list. Within a very short period of time, we can find out how many really have to be offered.

The pending amendment, the one Senator MIKULSKI offered, will have nearly—in fact, it may have—60 votes. So that will be adopted with ease.

I hope we do not have to file cloture on this bill. I acknowledge this is important legislation. The money for the funding of the troops is absolutely necessary. All one has to do is read the paper every morning to understand how badly our troops need it. I was just there, and they need all the resources they can get. We want to make sure they do not have to wait a second for what they need.

• This “bullet” symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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